

C O P Y

VA-1313

VSM/512/65

27 August 1948

ATTN:

Uspire - Conversation with Gen Gustav Henney

1. Following your cable I visited Gen Henney on 26 August. As expected, he recommended that we use the courier net of Gen Andrew Zako for the dissemination of Uspire material. Henney stated that he knows of no other individuals who now have clandestine communications with Hungary. Asking his opinion on Zako, he stated the following:

Zako's organization, the FORTISS, is an arrow-cross partisan organization which was started in the autumn of 1944 and their members are fanatic followers of the late Bruckner. Zako himself is primarily a soldier with arrow-cross tendencies but he is reasonable and moderate. He cooperated very closely with Ferenc Kibarnaki-Farkas in the past and the latter stated to Henney that Zako is his chief of staff. Recently, however, realizing that an open association with Kibarnaki-Farkas is not to the advantage of the group, Zako attempted to dissociate himself from Farkas and stated to Henney that he is independent from Kibarnaki-Farkas and in no way subordinated to the latter. He also stated that his only concern is the organization of a resistance inside Hungary and that he will not be active organizationally in Germany. Henney learned, however, that in spite of his statement Zako is active in organizing all former Hungarian general staff officers now into his Ropics Movement. Zako, on his visit to Henney on 25 August also stated that he was accused of being in the service of the French Intelligence and of peddling his information to the British and Americans at the same time. He did not deny this accusation to Henney. He merely stated that he is an Hungarian and that he would do his best to further the aims of the Hungarian nation. Upon Henney's inquiry, Zako declared that he would be willing to subordinate himself to the orders of the recently founded Hungarian Committee in Washington. Henney, who is very concerned that Zako should sever his ties with Kibarnaki-Farkas, and also that his loyalty should be unquestionable with the Hungarian Committee in Washington, doubts Zako's sincerity. Henney intends to extract a written statement from Zako in which the latter would declare as a soldier and officer that he submits himself in every respect to the orders of the Hungarian Committee in Washington. He believes that if such a written statement signed by Zako is obtained, the latter will represent an agreement and in such case may be valuable also for our purposes.

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2. I wish to inform you that the Munich station considers using Zabo's group eventually for SI purposes. Thus, in case you are interested in using his services for Empire, the question will have to be taken up with the Amzon chief of mission.

3. It is my opinion that we do not need the services of a large organization and that we could not possibly afford to use a politically homogeneous group whose loyalty to us is doubtful. We need a team of about 8 to 10 men who will actually disseminate the materiel.

4. Since Gen. Hennyey himself is not personally interested in organizing such a team, I intend to approach Col. Mihail Wagz and sound him out as to whether he could recruit the necessary and qualified personnel. I am also going to contact Gen. Gontor-Schweinitzer in case Wagz declines. As a third candidate I could sound out Peter Verkovitz. Hennyey promised to be on the lookout for qualified persons and I will maintain contact with him.

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